

Kentucky Higher Education
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COUNSELOR CONNECTION

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MIDDLE SCHOOL

The College Circuit now available



New editions of *The College Circuit* are now available for distribution to middle school and high school students in Kentucky.

The 32-page booklet is subtitled *An Owner's Manual to Higher Education* and uses an automotive theme to give students information about their college and financial aid options. The cover features students from the Bowling Green area and a red Corvette convertible from the National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, which graciously allowed KHEAA and The Student Loan PeopleSM to take photos there.

"*The College Circuit* combines the information that was included in two previous booklets we had, one just for middle school and one for high school," said Susan Hopkins, Outreach Services Manager for KHEAA and The Student Loan People. "The first section of *The College Circuit* is for all students, followed by sections for middle school students and high school students."

One part you may find especially effective in working with students involves having them select their choices for housing, transportation, food, educational level, etc. The next page asks students to add up their monthly expenses, based on the answers they selected. They can then compare how much they're spending with how much they'll make each month, depending on their educational level.

If you're interested in copies of *The College Circuit* for your students, please contact the KHEAA/ Student Loan People Outreach counselor for your area or call Summer Gortney at 502.696.7377.

Reality stores can make difference with students

Outreach counselors from KHEAA and The Student Loan People have participated in more and more reality stores at middle and high schools across the state in recent years. At Reality Stores, created by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's Cooperative Extension Office, students assume roles as breadwinners and have to spend their "wages" wisely.

One of our counselors shared this story about a reality store experience.

"Two eighth-grade students walked up to my booth where students had to pay me for their student loans if they went to college," the counselor said. "The student with the college education began complaining about having to pay for her student loan."

The other student's career (waitress) didn't require a college education, so she didn't have to pay off any student loans. The counselor looked at the waitress's bank account and saw that she was in the red for the month and was going to the bank for a loan to get her through the month. The college-educated student had plenty of money to get her through the month even after paying her student loan.

"I explained that the reason that the college educated student had money was that she had taken out a student loan and had invested in herself and her education and how in the real life that was true," the counselor recalled. "Both students left my booth convinced of the importance of education, and both said they were going to go to college so that they could make more money."

If you're planning to have a reality store and would like an outreach counselor to participate, please contact the counselor for your area. See the outreach map and contact information on the back page.



Outreach counselors receive training on ILP website

Outreach counselors and other KHEAA/Student Loan People staff recently participated in the Individual Learning Plan (ILP) training provided by the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE).

The web-based ILP and GoHigherKY.org are linked, so students and parents have easy access to both sites.

Where the ILP allows students to track their educational progress, GoHigherKY.org allows students to plan, choose and apply for college. Students and parents can review up-to-date information on how to select the school right for them, choose the right career and how to pay for college at one convenient site.

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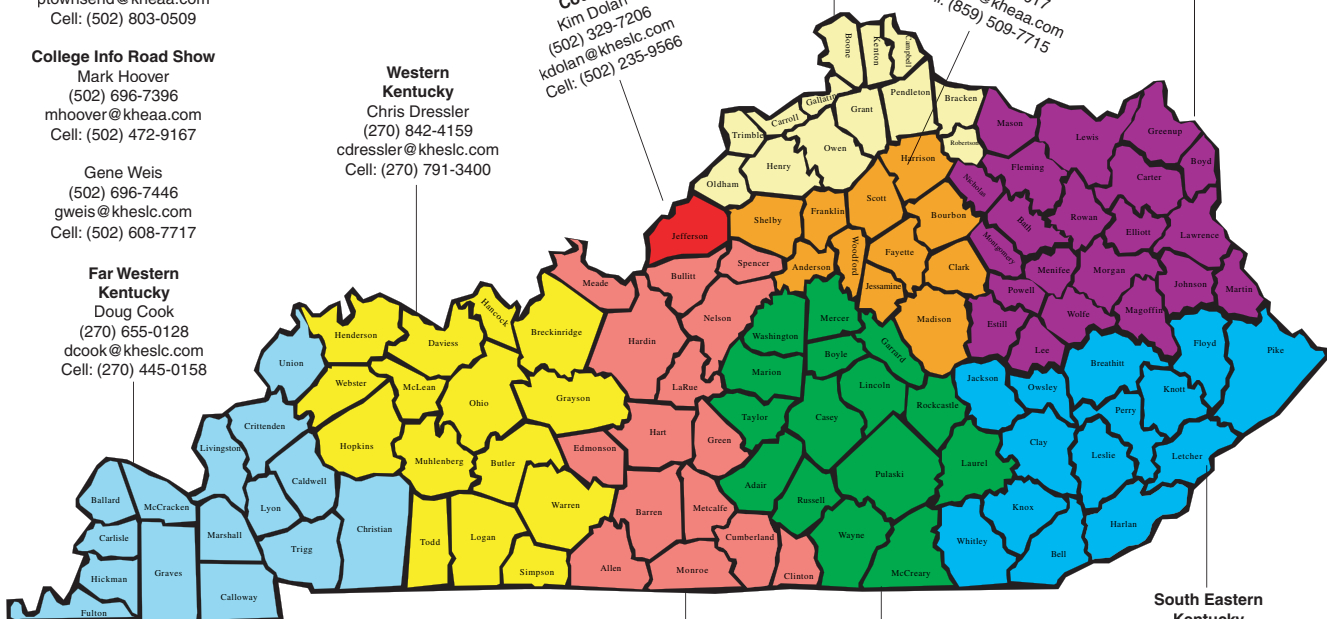
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